

Message Text

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----- 116482

R 121750Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7213

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 04242

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MORG, PINR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG CHANGES ITS DEFENSE ATTACHE PRIORITIES

REF: BONN 3775 DTG 051944Z MAR 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS CHANGING ITS PRIORITIES INsofar AS THE ALLOCATION OF DEFENSE ATTACHE RESOURCES IS CONCERNED. WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS FUNCTION IS NOT TO BE INCREASED, THEIR AREAS OF ASSIGNMENTS ARE. THE SIZE OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICES IS BEING REDUCED AND SOME SUCH OFFICES ARE BEING ABOLISHED. THE RESOURCES THUS FREED ARE BEING REDIRECTED TOWARDS WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, COMMUNIST CHINA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS LEAKED TO THE PRESS, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER STATED THAT BONN NO LONGER WANTS TO

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OBTAIN "INFORMATION AND FINDINGS IN THE MILITARY AND

POLITICAL/MILITARY SPHERES" IN THESE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS ONLY THROUGH WEST GERMAN AND FRIENDLY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, BUT ALSO BY OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED MILITARY MEN POSSESSING A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT." END SUMMARY.

1. "USSR"

THE LONG-PLANNED ATTACHE OFFICE IN MOSCOW IS NOW SCHEDULED TO OPEN EARLY IN APRIL PROVIDED FORMAL SOVIET APPROVAL IS RECEIVED IN TIME. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE WILL BE ARMY COLONEL AUGUST WILHELM VOGEL WHO WILL BE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL PRIOR TO THE ASSIGNMENT. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO COLONELS AND SIX NCO'S. ONE OF THESE OFFICERS, AIR FORCE COLONEL GERHARD EICHLER, HAS ALREADY BEEN NAMED.

2. "ROMANIA"

BY THE END OF SPRING, 1976, A MILITARY ATTACHE WILL BE RESIDENT IN BUCHAREST. ACCORDING TO THE LEAKED CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER STATED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEFENSE ATTACHE IN THIS COUNTRY WILL "OPEN UP HITHERTO CLOSED ACCESS TO THE ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY AND TO THE TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP". HE SAID "INFORMATION TO BE GAINED HERE IS OF GREAT INTEREST BECAUSE ROMANIA:

- HAS A RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT MILITARY POSITION IN THE WARSAW PACT;
- MAINTAINS SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA, YUGOSLAVIA AND THE OTHER BALKAN STATES; AND,
- SEEKS TO IMPROVE ITS INDEPENDENT POSITION AND POLICY THROUGH MANIFOLD CONTACTS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES AND STATES IN THE THIRD WORLD."

ACCORDING TO AN OFFICER IN THE ATTACHE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (LT. COL. EICHHORN), THE FRG'S DEFENSE ATTACHE WILL BE A NAVY OFFICER. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY OR JUNE, 1976, HIS POSTING WILL NOW BE DELAYED. LT. COL. EICHHORN STATED THAT ROMANIAN DEFENSE ATTACHES ACT AS "FRONT MEN" FOR THE SOVIETS. CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING FRG ATTACHES IN OTHER CAPITALS AND REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THEM; FOR EXAMPLE, ASKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TORPEDOS. LT. COL. EICHHORN STATED THAT THE FMOD FEELS THAT THE SOVIETS PUT THE ROMANIANS UP TO IT. IN LT. COL. EICHHORN'S OPINION, ROMANIAN DEFENSE ATTACHES WOULD NOT BE MAKING THESE KINDS OF APPROACHES IN OTHER CAPITALS IF ROMANIA INTENDED TO SEND AN ATTACHE TO BONN IN THE VERY NEAR

FUTURE.

3. "HUNGARY"

REFTEL NOTED THAT THE FRG INTENDS TO OPEN AN ATTACHE
OFFICE IN BUDAPEST. HOWEVER, THE OFFICE WILL NOT BE

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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 BIB-01 EA-07 NEA-10 AF-06 /086 W

----- 116551

R 121750Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214

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OPENED UNTIL 1977 AT THE EARLIEST. THE PROPOSAL HAS NOT
AS YET BEEN PUT BEFORE THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL,
ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS.

4. "BULGARIA"

BULGARIA WISHES TO SEND A DEFENSE ATTACHE TO THE
FRG. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR IT TO DO SO HAS BEEN
REACHED AND AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES HAS TAKEN PLACE.
HOWEVER, THE FRG HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO ASSIGN AN

ATTACHE TO SOPHIA.

5. "CHINA"

AN ATTACHE STAFF IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ESTABLISHED. IT WILL TEMPORARILY BE HEADED BY AIR FORCE LT. COL. GUENTHER LUEPKE ASSISTED BY TWO SERGEANTS. COLONEL LUEPKE COMPLETED CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING AT MONTEREY
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IN THE FALL OF 1975. AN ARMY COLONEL IS PRESENTLY UNDERGOING CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING IN GERMANY AND IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO TAKE OVER AS DEFENSE ATTACHE IN THE FALL OF THIS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE FONOFF, CHINA WILL ASSIGN TWO MILITARY ATTACHES TO BONN, AND THE FRG HAS APPROVAL FROM THEPRC TO ASSIGN A SECOND OFFICER TO PEKING. FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, BONN WILL SEND ONLY ONE OFFICER TO PEKING.

6. "TEL AVIV"

LT. COL. DIETRICH GERLACH ASSISTED BY A MASTER SERGEANT OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN TEL AVIV THIS YEAR. SUCH A MOVE HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD LONG RESISTED THE WEARING OF GERMAN MILITARY UNIFORMS IN THE JEWISH STATE.

7. "EGYPT"

COL. HUBERT ERNST THEISSEN ASSISTED BY A MASTER SERGEANT INAUGURATED A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN CAIRO EARLY THIS YEAR.

8. "SYRIA"

A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE HEADED BY A LT. COL. IS TO BE OPENED TO DAMASCUS. THE FMOD INTENDS TO DO SO AFTER THE ROMANIAN OFFICE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. ACCORDING TO THE SAME LEAKED MEMORANDUM, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER STATED THAT THE ATTACHE WILL PROVIDE "ACCESS TO AN ARMY WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE DECISIVE POLITICAL FORCE OF THE COUNTRY FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES NOW." HE IS TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH "SOVIET PORT UTILIZATION RIGHTS AND MILITARY ADVISORS" AND TRACE THE "USE OF SOVIET ARMS IN SYRIA". HE IS ALSO TO WATCH THE COUNTRY'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND ITS "RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH JORDAN, LEBANON, SAUDI ARABIA AND

THE PLO".
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9. "SOMALIA"

THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA HAS OFFERED TO ALLOW THE FRG TO ESTABLISH A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN THAT COUNTRY. THE OFFER WAS MADE TO THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO. NO FIRM DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, BUT THE FMOD FAVORS ACCREDITING ONE OF ITS ATTACHES ALREADY IN AFRICA AS NON-RESIDENT DEFENSE ATTACHE TO SOMALIA.

10. "REDUCTIONS"

IN ORDER TO STAFF THESE POSITIONS, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP ATTACHE POSITIONS ELSEWHERE. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN TUNIS AND ALGIERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED (ALTHOUGH THEY REMAIN IN EXISTENCE ON PAPER). IN ADDITION, AN AIR FORCE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO NEW DELHI IS BEING TRANSFERRED AND WILL NOT BE REPLACED WHILE THE AIR FORCE ATTACHE POSITION IN ROME IS BEING ABOLISHED.

11. "COMMENT"

FMOD SOURCES CONFIRM THAT THE CHANGES ARE BEING MADE, BUT REFERRED TO THEM AS FORTUITOUS. THE OPENING

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OF CERTAIN POSTS HAS ONLY JUST BECOME POLITICALLY
POSSIBLE, WHILE THE OPENING OF OTHERS REFLECT THE
INCREASED IMPORTANCE WHICH BONN PLACES IN DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

LT. COL. EICHHORN COMMENTED TO THE AIR ATTACHE
THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND PEKING ARE NOW VERY GOOD
AND GETTING BETTER. HE SAID BONN EXPECTS TO GET A LOT
OF BENEFIT FROM ITS ATTACHE OFFICE IN PEKING. HE ADDED
THAT THIS SHOULD PROVE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE US AS WELL,
SINCE AN ARRANGEMENT COULD BE MADE FOR THE US TO "SHARE"
BONN'S HOPED-FOR GOOD FORTUNE. IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF LT.
COL. EICHHORN WAS SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF OR WHETHER
HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS OFFER. HE LATER MADE
THE SAME OFFER TO SHARE INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH
THE POSSIBLE ACCREDITATION OF A NON-
RESIDENT DEFENSE ATTACHE TO SOMALIA.

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THE ASSIGNMENT OF A GERMAN GENERAL OFFICER AS DE-
FENSE ATTACHE IN MOSCOW WILL RESULT IN THE ARRIVAL OF A
SOVIET GENERAL OFFICER AS DEFENSE ATTACHE IN BONN. THIS
IN TURN MAKES THE ASSIGNMENT OF A US GENERAL OFFICER AS
DEFENSE ATTACHE IN BONN MORE PRESSING. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY ATTACHES, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN04242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0740
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachvt.tel
Line Count: 323
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 3775
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG CHANGES ITS DEFENSE ATTACHE PRIORITIES
TAGS: MPOL, MORG, PINR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006